

HOMES ON THE RANGE

NEAPOLITANS KNOW ONE GREAT HOME DESERVES ANOTHER, AND THEY OFTEN FIND THEIR HOMES AWAY FROM HOME THE SAME WAY THAT MANY FIND NAPLES—THROUGH FRIENDS AND RELATIVES. JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING, HAS A SIMILAR DRAW, RESULTING IN A COMMUNITY OF LIKE-MINDED NEAPOLITANS HEADING FOR THE MOUNTAINS.

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Neapolitans Mark and Nancy Borelli, Robin Bernier, Janet and Brian Childs, and Bridgette Novak at a gathering at 3 Creek Ranch in Jackson, Wyoming.



In many second-home communities where Neapolitans gather, someone got the ball rolling. Many Neapolitans with homes in Jackson, Wyoming, trace their connection to Naples builder Mark Borelli, who has been vacationing out West for about 20 years. "We went to a dude ranch every summer," he says. "The kids would hunt and fish. We would come out with friends and invite their families."

Naples dentists Brian and Janet Childs went West with their family at the invitation of Borelli about eight years ago. They now have a house in downtown Jackson, where Janet spends the summers with their children, aged 10, 13 and 16. They also come for a long weekend in the fall, for a week at Christmas, and in the spring to ski.

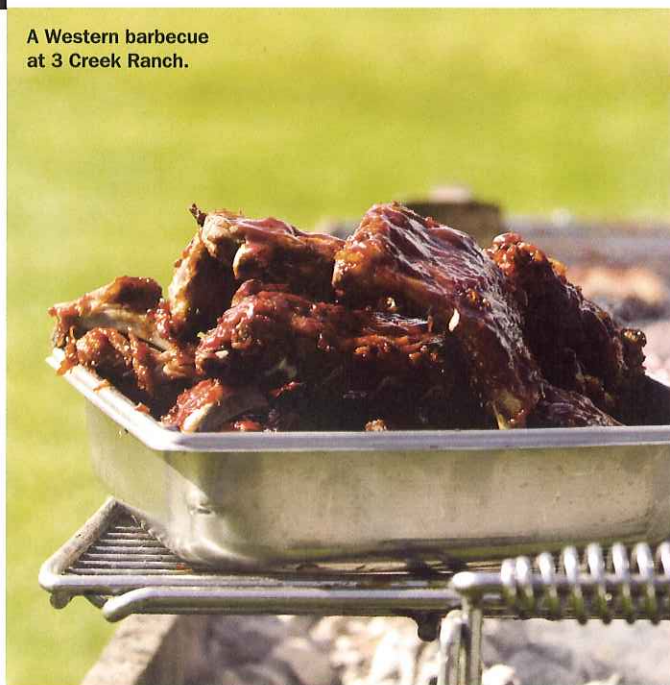
"We went to a dude ranch and fell in love with it," Brian Childs says. "We started looking at different places out West; it was always a dream of ours. Jackson is very beautiful, like Naples. Not a huge town, but big enough."

Borelli also lured his parents, Vince and Nancy Borelli, who built a house at 3 Creek Ranch, the club where eight couples from Naples own property and many more Neapolitans are club members. Even 3 Creek Ranch's general manager, Billy Cleveland, was at Naples National Golf Course from 1993 to 1996.

Jackie Cronacher says her husband, Roy, loves to ski, but ruled out Aspen, Colorado, where a friend lives, as being too much like Naples, with black-tie fundraisers. "My husband hated it," Jackie says. Instead, Roy remembered a vacation they had taken



A Western barbecue at 3 Creek Ranch.





Neapolitans gather at 3 Creek Ranch. Clockwise from top: Vince Borelli; Charlotte Luer, Robin Bernier, Parker Borelli; dessert; Nancy Borelli and Charlotte Luer; Janet Childs.



to a dude ranch near Jackson in 1994. They vacationed six years ago and fell in love again, building a post-and-beam log home that is decidedly Western.

"His goal was that nothing in this house could be in Naples," Jackie says. "Really, it's decorated with cowboys and Indians." Although the Cronachers' home wasn't for sale, someone made an offer they couldn't refuse. They are currently building a smaller version of the home on a street in Willow Brook, where two other Naples families have homes.

For Charlie and Cindy Eitel, the connection to Jackson was through their Port Royal neighbors Garnett and Bitsy Smith. Eitel was in Jackson for 48 hours and stopped by to see the Smiths in 2006, and then bought his house in 3 Creek Ranch. Four years ago, Karna and Dick Bodman planned to fly through Jackson Hole and have dinner with the Smiths, who were building a home in 3 Creek Ranch. "We get there, and Dick starts looking around," Karna Bodman says. "I said, 'What are you talking about? We came here for dinner.'"





The Bodmans bought a home on Teton Pines Golf Course, where former Vice President Dick Cheney also has a home. “There are a lot of Florida people, that is for sure,” Bodman says. “The blend is perfect, as far as the weather. It’s very serene.”

Serene, yes, but the abundance of outdoor activities in a humidity-free valley surrounded by the Grand Teton Mountains also attracts Neapolitans.

“We walk, bike, fish; there are so many activities,” says Carolyn Beall, who also has homes in Park Shore and Baltimore with her husband, George. “You may come with golf as the focus. You are a new person out here; it expands you. There’s always a new adventure just down the road.”

The Bealls love Wyoming so much, they have two homes. One is a log cabin with a red tin roof in the wilderness of Dubois, about 70 miles east of Jackson, which they’ve had for about 12 years. In May

2007, they moved into a home on the Jackson Hole Golf Course north of town, and often play golf at 3 Creek Ranch with their fellow club members from Hole in the Wall in Naples.

“We needed more golf,” Carolyn says. “We are outdoor people, always outside. Here you have no humidity, so you have the same energy all day long.”

The Childs family has found four-season fun in Jackson, hiking, kayaking, backpacking, fishing, skiing, snowmobiling and camping. In 2008, Brian Childs even hiked to the summit of Grand Teton, the mountain he can see from his house. “There are so many things to do,” he says. “We are very physical and active. You get out and do things.”

The Cronachers spend the summer and February in Jackson and have found that they are willing to do things in Wyoming that they wouldn’t do in Naples.

Nancy and Vince Borelli's home in 3 Creek Ranch emphasizes Western with a touch of Naples, with its open plan focusing on surrounding mountain views.







Cindy and Charlie Eitel were in Jackson for 48 hours when they bought a 3 Creek Ranch home. The decor by Cindy is more mountain than ski, with a focus on local fishing and wildlife art.

"Last year we had friends visit, and we went horseback riding for six hours, then camped in tents in the middle of nowhere," Jackie says. "Me, sleep in a tent? We cooked outside. It was an amazing two days. Our friends say it was the best vacation they ever had. It's God's country."

Scene and Scenery

But it's not just the abundant nature and wildlife. Neapolitans find Jackson's town square shares similarities with Naples—fine restaurants, galleries and shopping.

The Eitels have gotten into collecting fishing and wildlife art, and used many local galleries to furnish their 3 Creek Ranch home. "We love the town, the shopping, the art galleries," Cindy Eitel

says. "The town of Jackson; the friendliness at the club; you can't beat this weather. It's a great place to be."

The Eitels and Bodmans have found the same things that drew them to Jackson are now enticing their children and grandchildren to visit. "We are so very much into our family, and this is a huge family draw," Cindy Eitel says. "Within the club, there are a lot of kids and grandchildren."

The differences and similarities with Naples keep Neapolitans coming, and bringing their friends.

"Here we sit, looking at the Tetons," Carolyn Beall says. "It's a pleasure to be here, refreshing every day. Everyone can find what they want here, and everyone is happy where they live, which is not unlike Naples. We're all like grownup campers." ♦